

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05

ACDA-05 BIB-01 MC-01 /084 W
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R 221748Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7420

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GW

SUBJECT: BUNDESWEHR: BUNDESTAG TO APPROVE RESTRUCTURING
PLAN

REF: BONN 19589

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE BUNDESTAG IS EXPECTED TO APPROVE
DEFENSE MINISTER LEBER'S RESTRUCTURING PLAN FOR THE
BUNDESWEHR ON JANUARY 24. THE PLAN WOULD SET UP A
STANDBY READINESS FORCE OF 30,000 MEN WHO COULD BE
CALLED UP TO ACTIVE DUTY BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER. WHILE
THE OPPOSITION INITIALLY OPPOSED THE PLAN BECAUSE OF THE
LOSS OF "FORCES-IN-BEING," AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN
REACHED THAT THE CDU/CSU WILL VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE
PLAN PROVIDED IT IS NOT IMPLEMENTED UNTIL "SATISFACTORY
RESULTS" ARE REACHED IN THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. END
SUMMARY

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1. THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION HAVE REACHED AGREEMENT IN THE BUNDESTAG DEFENSE COMMITTEE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF A STANDBY READINESS FORCE FOR THE BUNDESWEHR. THE FORCE WILL CONSIST OF 30,000 MEN WHO CAN BE RECALLED TO ACTIVE DUTY DIRECTLY BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER WITHIN TWELVE MONTHS FOLLOWING THEIR DISCHARGE FROM ACTIVE DUTY. THE AUTHORIZED PEACETIME STRENGTH OF THE BUNDESWEHR REMAINS AT 495,000. THE PLAN REQUIRES AN AMENDMENT TO THE COMPULSORY MILITARY SERVICE ACT. THE CDU/CSU HAD INITIALLY OPPOSED THE PLAN, ARGUING THAT IT WOULD RESULT IN A LOSS OF "FORCES-IN-BEING" AT A PSYCHOLOGICALLY INOPPORTUNE MOMENT IN CENTRAL EUROPE AS SOVIET CONVENTIONAL STRENGTH INCREASES, THAT IT WOULD NOT SAVE ENOUGH MONEY, AND THAT IT MIGHT HAVE AN UNTOWARD EFFECT ON THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS(SEE REFTEL).

2. THE DOUBTS VOICED BY THE OPPOSITION HAVE NOW BEEN OVERCOME BY THE DEFENSE MINISTER, BUT NOT WITHOUT SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS BY LEBER. THE COMPROMISE AGREEMENT REACHED PROVIDES THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT IMPLEMENT THE STANDBY READINESS PLAN UNTIL SUCH TIME AS "SATISFACTORY RESULTS" ARE REACHED AT THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IN VIENNA. PRECISELY WHAT IS MEANT BY THE TERM "SATISFACTORY RESULTS" HAS NOT BEEN DEFINED AS YET. CDU/CSU DEFENSE SPOKESMAN WOERNER HAS COMMENTED THAT THE RESULTS WOULD BE CONSIDERED SATISFACTORY IF ALL PARTIES IN THE BUNDESTAG FOUND THEM TO BE SATISFACTORY.

3. THE AGREEMENT ON THE COMPROMISE SOLUTION REPRESENTS A VICTORY FOR THE OPPOSITION'S POLICY. THE PRESS HAS SPECULATED THAT LEBER AGREED TO THE COMPROMISE SO EASILY BECAUSE HE FEARED ATTACKS ON HIS OVERALL DEFENSE PROGRAM BY LEFT-WING MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COALITION. IN EFFECT, HE NEEDED THE SUPPORT OF THE OPPOSITION, AND THE ONLY WAY TO GET IT WAS TO COMPROMISE. THE DEFENSE MINISTER ALSO AGREED THAT THE TERRITORIAL ARMY COMMANDS WOULD NOT BE ABOLISHED, ANOTHER POINT UPON WHICH THE OPPOSITION HAD INSISTED. LEBER HAS APPARENTLY SENT A LETTER TO BAVARIAN MINISTER
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PRESIDENT GOEPPPEL INFORMING HIM THAT THE MILITARY DISTRICT COMMANDS WILL BE MAINTAINED IN THEIR CURRENT FORM. CHANGES WOULD ONLY BE MADE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE VARIOUS STATES.
HILLENBRAND

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